

# WEEKLY VIEWS

BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2010

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility students decorated brown paper bags donated from the Village Lights Bookstore. The students were inspired to decorate the "I Have a Dream" project bags after learning and discussing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s civil rights movement vision. The bags were displayed at the book store for the holiday.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit has adopted the Indiana Veterans Home in Lafayette, Indiana with plans to deliver over 250 quilts by Memorial Day.

PEN Products recently held a Career Path Planning Workshop at Rockville Correctional Facility. 24 offenders and 12 staff participants worked in teams during the workshop, which focused on the key elements of a successful re-entry, career planning, time management, and smart decision making.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility recently held its Kairos Torch reunion weekend. 14 volunteers attended and worked with 14 students to help the students reflect on and process goals for re-entry.

IUPUI students and IREF residents met to begin a new semester of the IUPUI Inside Out Prison Exchange Program. This class is an opportunity for students and residents to exchange ideas regarding criminal justice, as well as perceptions about punishment and reformation.

Correctional Training Institute in New Castle is celebrating 10 years of service to the Indiana Department of Correction. The facility has experienced many improvements and significant changes during the past decade, including a transformation to regional training sites. Classrooms, suites, and lodging rooms have been renovated to be more customer-friendly, and a computer lab, distance education classroom complete with video-conferencing capabilities, and a fitness center have been added. CTI achieved "accreditation" from the American Correctional Association in 2004.

Pendleton Correctional Facility staff recently conducted a bake sale with the proceeds going to the Haiti Relief Fund.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a graduation ceremony for 8 students who completed the facility's CLIFF program. To date there have been 26 groups and 199 graduates of the program with an 8% recidivism rate.

The Wabash Valley Community Advisory Board met this week, learning more about the voluntary furlough program, offender work crews, and efforts to save taxpayer dollars. A lively group discussion about the pros and cons of the two meals a day pilot program ended with board members favoring the two meal concept.

Correctional Industrial Facility held a fundraiser in celebration of National Pie Day this week. Staff brought in pies to be shared with all CIF employees for a \$1.00 donation per slice. Proceeds went toward Employee Appreciation Week.

Westville Correctional Facility staff met with local law enforcement to coordinate and review their joint emergency preparedness plans and activities. Rachael Ross, MD (CMS) just returned from providing medical relief in Haiti and Ramona Schmidt, RN (CMS) is still assisting in Haiti.

Pendleton Juvenile had its first two students qualify for the presidential fitness award. Students are tested when they first arrive and practice these activities until they are released. The students received patches and a certificate.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a worship service to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this week. Approximately 90 offenders attended the event, which featured guest speaker Isaac Randolph, the Executive Director of the Indiana Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

The PLUS program at the Indiana State Prison recently donated \$250 to the relief in Haiti.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility presented its STAR (Students Talking About Recovery) program to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class of Fairview Elementary School. The students from the facility's CLIFF program gave their personal stories and answered questions from the school's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Westville Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit donated proceeds from their holiday candy sale to The Caring Place. \$100 went to the women's shelter of Porter County.

North Daviess County 5<sup>th</sup> graders learned about Indiana Department of Correction efforts to prepare offenders for successful re-entry into society during a talk by Wabash Valley PIO Rich Larsen. Larsen is one of the speakers involved in the Purdue University Cooperation Extension Service Project LEAD (Legal Education to Arrest Delinquency) Program.

**"Don't wait for extraordinary opportunities. Seize common occasions and make them great. Weak men wait for opportunities; strong men make them." ~ Orison Swett Marden**